

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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LESLIE RIVERA

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

-against-

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE CITY OF
NEW YORK HOUSING AUTHORITY, THE
CITY OF NEW YORK HOUSING POLICE,
P.O. LATISHA SIDNEUS of PSA 8, SHIELD
NO. 3463**

Defendants.
-----X

The Plaintiff by his attorney, ROSE A. ROSSI, complaining of the defendants,
respectfully allege as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiff brings this action for compensatory damages, punitive damages fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1983 and 42 U.S.C. 1988 for violation of their civil rights and the Constitutions of New York and the United States.

JURISDICTION

2. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1983 and 42 U.S.C. 1988, and the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution

VENUE

3. Venue is properly laid in the Southern District of New York under 28 U.S.C. 1391(b) in that this is the District in which the claim arose.

JURY DEMAND

4. Plaintiff respectfully demands trial by jury of all issues in this matter pursuant to Federal

Rules of Civil Procedure, P. 38(b)

PARTIES

5. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK (hereinafter referred to as "CITY") was a municipal corporation duly organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New York.
- .6. That at all times herein mentioned the Plaintiff resides in the County of Bronx, City and State of New York;
- .7.. This action is commenced within three years of the date of the incident and/or accrual of the cause of action.
8. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant, "CITY, owns, manages, operates, maintains and controls the New York City Housing Authority, hereafter referred to as "HOUSING" as a subsidiary;
9. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, defendant, "CITY, owns, manages, operates, maintains and controls the New York City Housing Authority Police, hereafter referred to as "POLICE" as a subsidiary;
10. That at all times herein mentioned, the Defendant P.O. Latisha Sidneus was employed by and a member of the "Police" , and under the supervision of ranking officers of said department and was acting within her scope of authority.
11. On or about October 5, 2017 at approximately 7:30 pm of that day, the Plaintiff was lawfully operating his electric bicycle on Watson Avenue, turning left on Metcalf Avenue, at or near 1126 Metcalf Avenue, Bronx, City and State of New York;
12. That members of the "Police", including the named defendant responded to the scene with guns drawn from an unmarked vehicle;

13. The "Police" asked for identification. The "Police" stated that the Plaintiff was operating the bicycle without a license. The Plaintiff responded that he never had a license and that he did not need an operators license to ride an electric bike. The "Police" stated to another officer that the Plaintiff was on parole. The plaintiff advised "Police" that he had just reported for his last day of parole October 5, 2017. The Plaintiff asked the "Police" to verify same, offering the cell number of his parole officer. "Police" refused.
14. The Plaintiff was removed from the scene and taken to the Housing Police facility PSA8 where he was strip searched and where he remained for approximately six hours;
15. That the Plaintiff was taken to central booking and the Criminal Court where remained until October 6, 2017 at approximately 5pm of that day;
16. The Plaintiff, was released;
17. The criminal action against the Plaintiffs were disposed of as follows: Case Dismissed March 26, 2018..

FIRST COUNT-FALSE IMPRISONMENT

- .18. Plaintiff repeats and re-iterates each and every allegation of the complaint herein numbered "1" through "17" inclusive as though same were fully set forth herein;
 19. Plaintiff was falsely imprisoned at the scene of the occurrence, continuing thereafter to the Housing Police facility PSA8, and Central Booking;
 20. As a result of the aforementioned, plaintiff suffered emotional trauma, feared for his life, sustained severe and serious other consequential damages.
 21. Plaintiff intends to claim punitive damages for all of the counts herein;
 22. The criminal action against the Plaintiff was disposed of as follows: Case Dismissed on March 26, 2018;
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23. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in a sum within the Jurisdictional limits of The United States District Court, Southern District and in excess of the Jurisdictional limits of all inferior Courts.

SECOND COUNT-FALSE ARREST

24. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "23" herein as if more fully set forth at length:
25. Plaintiff, was, without cause or provocation, falsely arrested.
26. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff, suffered emotional trauma, fear for his life, sustained severe and serious personal injuries and other consequential damages.
27. Plaintiff intends to claim punitive damages for all of the counts herein.
28. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in a sum within the Jurisdictional limits of The United States District Court, Southern District of New York and in excess of the Jurisdictional limits of all inferior Courts.

SECOND COUNT-NEGLIGENT TREATMENT:

29. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "28" herein as if more fully set forth at length;
30. At the aforementioned time and place, plaintiff was negligently treated by the defendant P.O. Sidneus and by various police officers employed by the defendants "CITY" and "HOUSING" in that a proper investigation was not conducted prior to the incident complained of as a proper investigation would have revealed that the arrest and imprisonment was unwarranted;
31. Plaintiff intends to claim punitive damages and legal fees for all of the counts herein
32. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in a sum within the

Jurisdictional limits of The United States District Court, Southern District Court and in excess of the Jurisdictional limits of all inferior Courts

THIRD COUNT-INVASION OF PRIVACY:

33. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "32" herein as if more fully set forth at length
34. The aforementioned occurrence constituted an invasion of the privacy of plaintiff;
35. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff sustained severe and serious emotional injuries and other consequential damages.
36. Plaintiff intends to claim punitive damages and legal fees for all of the counts interposed herein.
37. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in a sum within the Jurisdictional limits of The United States District Court, Southern District and in excess of the Jurisdictional limits of all inferior Courts.

FOURTH COUNT-CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION:

38. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "37" herein as if more fully set forth at length:
39. As a result of the aforementioned occurrence, plaintiff was deprived of his civil rights under the Constitution of the State of New York and the Constitution of the United States, as well as other State ordinances statutes, codes and rules, including but not limited to 42 USC §1981, §1983, §1985, 1988 and 28 USC § 1343.
40. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff suffered emotional trauma, feared for his life, sustained severe and serious other consequential damages.
41. Plaintiff intends to claim punitive damages and legal fees for all of the causes of action

interposed herein.

42. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff has been damaged in a sum within the Jurisdictional limits of The United States District Court, Southern District and in excess of the Jurisdictional limits of all inferior Courts.

FIFTH COUNT-NEGLIGENCE

43. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges the allegations contained in Paragraphs "1" through "42" herein as if more fully set forth at length:
44. The aforementioned occurrence took place by reason of the negligence of defendants, its agents, servants and/or employees, including various police officers.
45. The defendant, "CITY" and it's subsidiary "HOUSING" and their employees were negligent in their hiring and training practices and procedures. A proper investigation prior to hiring would have revealed that the defendant P.O. Sinneus were not qualified to assume the responsibilities of the job hired for. In addition had there been a proper training program the aforementioned the defendant P.O. Sidneus would not have been retained;
46. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff suffered emotional trauma, fears for his life, sustained severe and serious other consequential damages.
47. Plaintiff intends to claim punitive damages and legal fees for all of the causes of action interposed herein.
48. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in a sum within the Jurisdictional limits of The United States District Court, Southern District and in excess of the Jurisdictional limits of all inferior Courts.

SIXTH COUNT MUNICIPAL LIABILITY

- 49.. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "48" as if the same were more fully set forth at length herein.
50. Defendants imprisoned and detained the Plaintiff in the absence of any evidence of criminal wrongdoing, notwithstanding their knowledge that said imprisonment detention would jeopardize plaintiffs liberty, well being, safety and constitutional rights ;
51. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendants in their capacities as police officers and officials, with all the actual and/or apparent authority attendant thereto.
52. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendant in their her as police officer and officials pursuant to the customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures, and rules of the City of New York and "HOUSING" , all under the supervision of ranking officers of said department
53. . The aforementioned customs, policies. usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City of New York and the New York City Police Department include, but are not limited to, the following unconstitutional practices:
- a) fabricating evidence against innocent persons erroneously arrested;
 - b) imprisoning innocent persons wrongfully apprehended;
 - c) Imprisoning innocent persons notwithstanding the existence of credible evidence which exonerates the accused of any criminal wrongdoing.
54. The existence of the aforesaid unconstitutional customs and policies may be inferred from repeated occurrences of similar wrongful conduct. as documented in the following civil rights actions filed against the City of New York:

• **Frank Douglas v. City of New York.**, United States District Court Southern District of New York, 03 CV 6475;

Darnell Flood v. City of New York., United States District Court, Southern District of New York. 03 CV 10313;

Theodore Richardson v. City of New York. et al., United States District Court,

Eastern District of New York, 02 CV 3651;

Phillip Stewart v. City of New York, United States District Court, Southern
District of New York, 05 CV 2375;

Benjamin Taylor v. City of New York, United States District Court, Eastern
District of New York, 01 CV 5750;

Angel Vasquez v. City of New York, United States District Court, Eastern
District of New York, 05 CV 3552;

• **Alvin ,Williams v. City of New York**, United States District Court, Southern
District of New York.. 05 CV 4013:

Terrence Burton v. City of New York, United States District Court,
District of New York, 06 CV 6884.

55. The foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the
“City” and “Housing” constituted a deliberate indifference to the safety, well-being and
constitutional rights of plaintiff
56. The foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the
“City” and “Housing” were the direct and proximate cause of the constitutional violations
suffered by Plaintiff as alleged herein.
57. The foregoing customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the
“City” and “Housing” were the moving force behind the constitutional violations suffered
by plaintiff as alleged herein
58. As result of the foregoing custom, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the
“City” and “Housing”, plaintiff was imprisoned unlawfully for several hours;.
- 59..Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of State Law, were
directly and actively involved in violating the constitutional rights of plaintiff;
60. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of State Law,
acquiesced in a pattern of unconstitutional conduct by subordinate police officers, and were

directly responsible for the violation of the plaintiff's constitutional rights.

61. All of the foregoing acts by the defendants deprived the plaintiff of federally protected rights, including but not limited to:

.Not to be deprived of liberty without due process of law.

Not to fabricate evidence.

To be free from seizure and imprisonment not based upon probable cause.

.To be free from unwarranted and malicious detention.

.Not to have cruel and unusual punishment imposed upon him/her; and

.To receive equal protection under the law.

62. The plaintiff intends to seek punitive damages on all counts herein.

.63. The plaintiff seeks damages in a sum within the jurisdictional limits of The United States District Court, Southern District and in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all inferior Courts

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgement against all defendants, jointly and severally in each count in a sum within the jurisdictional limits of the United States District Court and in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all inferior Courts.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgement against all defendants, jointly and severally in each count in for punitive damages in a sum within the jurisdictional limits of the United States District Court and in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all inferior Court

A jury trial is demanded

By



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